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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR CA/OCS/ACS CHRISTINE TADROS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [CASC](#) [CHAMAN](#) [JONATHAN](#)
SUBJECT: KARACHI PRISON VISIT: JONATHAN (AZAM) CHAMAN

REF: KARACHI 449

1. (SBU) On October 15, 2008, Consular Officer (ConOff) visited American citizen Jonathan Chaman (DPOB: 6 December 1973, Pakistan) in Central Prison Karachi. Mr. Chaman told ConOff that his treatment is good and had improved since the visit by the Consul General in July 2008 (reftel). He made no mention of the violence in Central Prison Karachi that was reported earlier in the week. He has no major health problems but complained about weight loss due to the poor food quality.

2. (SBU) Although Mr. Chaman has spent 29 months in prison and is taken to court each month, he is still waiting for his trial to begin. Currently he does not have a lawyer assigned to his case nor does he have any money to hire an attorney. (The recently appointed Superintendent of Central Prison told ConOff that he would assist Mr. Chaman in finding an attorney for his case.) ConOff also suggested that Mr. Chaman meet with the NGOs who visit the prison since they might be able to help him obtain legal representation.

3. (SBU) As always, the visit took place in the Superintendent's Office. The Superintendent left after several minutes and allowed Mr. Chaman to talk to ConOff without the presence of a guard. At the conclusion of the visit, ConOff spoke to the Superintendent about the delays in Mr. Chaman's trial and his health concerns. The Superintendent responded positively and said he would have a doctor examine Mr. Chaman immediately and he would also check on the status of his trial.
Anske